

From: ["Washburn, Ben" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN.BEN>](mailto:Washburn.Ben@EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN.BEN)  
To: ["R7 Daily Digest" <Group>](#)  
CC:  
Date: 10/3/2014 3:14:50 PM  
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 10/3/14

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#### OPA Daily Digest for 10/3/14

##### Congressional Inquiries:

**Sen. Roy Blunt (Mo.)** – Email – 9/5/14: Deed restriction on contaminated property near the Missouri Electric Works site in Cape Girardeau. Due: 9/12/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

##### State Government Inquiries:

**Sen. Gary Romine (Mo.)** – letter – 10/1/14: Questioning high levels of lead in soil in southeastern Missouri. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

##### Press Inquiries:

**West Plains Quill (Mo.)** – Denise Vaughn – 10/1/14: Questions regarding Coastal Energy. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

**KWMU Public Radio, St. Louis** – Veronique LaCapra – 10/3/14: Questions about timing of availability of U.S. Geological Survey's analysis of groundwater data at West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

##### Environmental Stories:

**Des Moines Register - Branstad asks Obama to boost renewable fuel mandate** - 10/2/14 - Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad is urging the White House to reverse a proposal that would reduce the amount of renewable fuels required to be blended into the country's motorfuel supply.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2014/10/02/renewable-fuel-ethanol-biodiesel-cellulosic-branstad-letter/16596331/>

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

**Omaha World-Herald - Business group praises call for more study on impact of Clean Water Act rules** - 10/3/14 - A Nebraska small-business organization on Thursday applauded a suggestion by a federal official that an expansion of the Clean Water Act be delayed so the impact on businesses can be studied.

[http://www.omaha.com/news/metro/business-group-praises-call-for-more-study-on-impact-of/article\\_c991e305-cfb4-5d69-b7fd-c29dbb65b16c.html](http://www.omaha.com/news/metro/business-group-praises-call-for-more-study-on-impact-of/article_c991e305-cfb4-5d69-b7fd-c29dbb65b16c.html)

**SNL - Midcontinent ISO: MVP project benefits larger than previously thought** - 10/1/14 - The Midcontinent Independent System Operator Inc. has released its latest triennial review of the projected benefits of transmission projects that are deemed multivalued projects, or MVPs, because they offer broad benefits and therefore are eligible for regional cost allocation. <https://www.snl.com/Interactivex/article.aspx?CdId=A-29379703-12582>

**Papillion Times (Neb.) - Street planters part of Thompson Creek project** - 10/3/14 - A street planter was constructed during the first part of August on the corner to help improve storm water quality. The \$31,900-project was funded in part by grants from the Environmental Protection Agency that were distributed through the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. [http://www.omaha.com/sarpy/papillion/street-planters-part-of-thompson-creek-project/article\\_067c64af-89ad-53e6-b039-623a5be2a7a6.html](http://www.omaha.com/sarpy/papillion/street-planters-part-of-thompson-creek-project/article_067c64af-89ad-53e6-b039-623a5be2a7a6.html)

**Farm Bureau: EPA must withdraw irregular, biased rulemaking** - 10/1/14 - The American Farm Bureau Federation, together with the other 62 members of the Waters Access coalition, deplored a series of misrepresentations made by the EPA following release of the proposed "Waters of the U.S." rule, which is the agency's own interpretation of the 1970s-era Clean Water Act. <http://www.dairyherd.com/dairy-news/Farm-Bureau-EPA-must-withdraw-irregular-biased-rulemaking-277793011.html>

**Kansas City Business Journal - James shakes up KC eco-devo boards, tweaks policy** - 10/2/14 - Mayor Sly James announced a number of economic development policy changes Thursday, including a shakeup of board members serving Kansas City's two most active incentive-granting organizations. <http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/news/2014/10/02/james-shakes-up-kc-eco-devo-boards-tweaks-policy.html>

**Clinton Herald (Iowa) - DNR investigating spill into river** - 10/2/14 - An image that surfaced Sunday of what appeared to be black water spilling into the Mississippi River near Swan Slough in Camanche is currently under investigation. [http://www.clintonherald.com/news/article\\_8454ba18-4a42-11e4-be3d-637117b0c09b.html](http://www.clintonherald.com/news/article_8454ba18-4a42-11e4-be3d-637117b0c09b.html)

**Center for Effective Government (blog) - Business Leaders Question SBA Advocacy's Comments on EPA's Water Rule** - 10/2/14 - The American Sustainable Business Council questioned the public comments submitted by the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy concerning the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Waters of the United States rule. Those comments called for EPA to withdraw the rule. <http://www.foreffectivegov.org/node/13239>

**Center for Progressive Reform - SBA Office of Advocacy Continues to Carry 'Water' for Big Business** - 10/2/14 - Apparently undeterred by all the bad press it has received lately, the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Advocacy has cast its controversy-attracting lightning rod ever higher in the air by issuing a feeble comment letter attacking the EPA's pending rulemaking to define the scope of the Clean Water Act. <http://www.progressivereform.org/CPRBlog.cfm?idBlog=D265AD26-0AC0-2141-1D40DF38449E0A54>

**Forbes - Is Global Clean Energy Investment At A Tipping Point?** - 10/2/14 - Last week, amidst the U.N. Climate Summit and historic climate march, governments, investors, and financial institutions took the opportunity to make big announcements about their investment in clean energy. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/edfenergyexchange/2014/10/02/is-global-clean-energy-investment-at-a-tipping-point/>

**Platts - US EPA's proposed power emissions cuts targets are too aggressive: AEP** - 10/2/14 - New US Environmental Protection Agency regulations aimed at reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from power generation set unrealistic deadlines and targets for energy efficiency and heat rate gains. <http://www.platts.com/latest-news/electric-power/washington/us-epas-proposed-power-emissions-cuts-targets-21331951>

**Chemical & Engineering News - Bumping Up Ethanol Yields** - 10/2/14 - At 25 billion gal produced globally each year, ethanol has made a crucial contribution to transportation fuel supplies. But without much effort, a few tweaks to yeasts and the reaction conditions they operate under could boost ethanol production further and reduce costs, according to two research reports. <http://cen.acs.org/articles/92/web/2014/10/Bumping-Ethanol-Yields.html>

**Indianapolis Star - Supreme Court could hear challenge to EPA rule on emissions** - 10/2/14 - A challenge to a federal rule cutting toxic emissions from power plants is one of the issues the Supreme Court could agree to hear this term, which begins Monday. The court could begin announcing any day what appeals it will accept.  
<http://www.indystar.com/story/news/2014/10/02/supreme-court-hear-challenge-epa-rule-emissions/16568147/>

**Think Progress - Study Shows EPA's Power Plant Rules Could Prevent Thousands Of Deaths Annually** - 10/2/14 - The federal government's new effort to cut carbon emissions from the nation's power plants could wind up saving 3,500 lives every year, according to a new study.  
<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/10/02/3574898/health-study-epa-power-plant-rule/>

**KSOM Radio, Atlantic, Iowa – Atlantic City Council Requests EPA to Move Forward With PCE Cleanup** – 10/1/14 - The Atlantic City Council Wednesday night gave their support to the EPA's decision to move forward with a course of action to address the ground water contamination from an old dry cleaner site that was located on East 7th Street back in the 1980's. <http://965ksom.com/news/latest-news-stories/116097>

**Vox - How the oil and gas boom is changing America** - 10/2/14 - The US oil and gas boom has been one of the biggest and most consequential energy stories of the last decade. And one of the best books for understanding how that boom is affecting America is Michael Levi's The Power Surge.  
<http://www.vox.com/2014/10/2/6892781/how-the-oil-and-gas-boom-is-changing-america>

**Daily Caller - EPA Expands Biofuels Definition To Inflate Production Numbers** - 10/2/14 - Cellulosic biofuel production has been virtually non-existent, despite rosy government predictions. To rectify that, the Environmental Protection Agency recently expanded the definition of what constitutes a cellulosic biofuel.  
<http://dailycaller.com/2014/10/02/epa-expands-biofuels-definition-to-inflate-production-numbers/>

**Heritage Foundation - Another EPA and Army Corps Power Grab: Limiting Exemptions for Agriculture Under the CWA** - 10/1/14 - Agricultural activities will likely be far more costly and difficult, at least if the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) get their way.  
<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2014/10/another-epa-and-army-corps-power-grab-limiting-exemptions-for-agriculture-under-the-cwa>

**Chemistry World - EPA criticized over asbestos clean-up research** - 10/2/14 - The US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) internal watchdog has found that the agency's costly and time-consuming experiments on alternative asbestos control methods (AACM) lacked effective oversight and threatened human health.  
<http://www.rsc.org/chemistryworld/2014/10/epa-criticised-asbestos-research-water-pollution>

**The Hill - Issa: EPA still blocking watchdog investigations** - 10/2/14 - House Oversight Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-Calif.) blasted the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Thursday, claiming it had failed to take steps to allow a federal watchdog to conduct investigations. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/219606-issa-epa-still-blocking-investigations>

**USA Today - Fact check: Pryor ad distorts facts on EPA, farm dust** - 10/2/14 - The Arkansas Senate race continues to be fertile ground for fact-checkers. Sen. Mark Pryor tries to make political hay out of agricultural dust by distorting the facts in a new TV ad. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/political-ad-tracker/2014/10/02/arkansas-senate-mark-pryor-farm-dust/16606985/>

**NRDC Switchboard (blog) - Wall Street Journal Smoking Something on Carbon Pollution Lawsuit** - 10/2/14 - The Wall Street Journal's editorial writers have gone all aflutter over a flaky lawsuit to stop EPA from putting limits on the two billion tons of carbon pollution pouring from the nation's power plants.  
[http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/ddoniger/wall\\_street\\_journal\\_smoking\\_so.html](http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/ddoniger/wall_street_journal_smoking_so.html)

**The Daily Climate - Fighting denial: All just a little bit of history repeating** - 10/3/14 - People who follow climate change issues closely know the story, and know the players: Activists, led by groups like Forecast the Facts and stoked with rage over industry-backed groups pushing climate denial, launch a successful pressure campaign to drive the industry donors away. <http://www.dailyclimate.org/tdc-newsroom/2014/09/fighting-alec-denial>

**Environmental Leader - FEMA to Require States to Examine Climate Risks** - 10/2/14 - The Federal Emergency Management Agency will soon require states to examine the impacts of global warming on their communities as a condition for receiving federal disaster preparedness funding, according to draft guidelines released by the agency earlier this month. <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/10/03/fema-to-require-states-to-examine-climate-risks/>

**The Week - How to solve global warming in 2 easy steps** - 10/2/14 - Excessive carbon emissions into the atmosphere remain a serious concern and a real problem. So what can we do to solve it? <http://theweek.com/article/index/269160/how-to-solve-global-warming-in-2-easy-steps>

**ThinkProgress - Head Of ALEC: 'I Don't Know The Science' Of Climate Change** – 10/2/14 - The person who runs the American Legislative Exchange Council, a free-market lobbying group that opposes policies to fight climate change, is not sure whether humans actually cause climate change, according to an interview with the National Journal published Wednesday. <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/10/02/3574986/alec-nelson-climate-change/>

**Greenwire - Regs make seniors sicker -- conservative group** - 10/2/14 - A conservative senior citizens' organization released a paper today charging that U.S. EPA's climate change and air quality rules will make older people sicker rather than healthier. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060006818/>

**Greenwire - GOP bill would compel EPA to report impacts of a tighter ozone standard** - 10/2/14 - A Texas Republican yesterday introduced legislation that would bar U.S. EPA from proposing a tighter ozone standard until the agency submits a report to Congress on the potential impacts. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060006797/>

**Greenwire - Little prevents waste in open pits from escaping into air -- report** - 10/2/14 - Air emissions from oil and gas waste are among the least regulated, least monitored and least understood components of the production cycle, especially in Texas, where demand for waste storage is growing in the midst of a hydraulic fracturing boom. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060006790/>

#### **Press Releases:**

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

**EPA Inspection Finds Clean Water Act Violations by E&M Farms, Inc., Dairy Operation near Ossian, Iowa** – 10/3/14 – Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

#### **Fact Sheets:**

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

#### **Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:**

\* New additions noted with an asterisk

**10/3/14** – Iowa Water Challenges Outreach Event with Brody Middle School, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**10/4/14** – Iowa Sierra Club Annual Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

**10/9/14** – Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Energy & Environmental Roundtable and Reception, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Bryan, 7433

**10/10/14** – Nebraska State Bar Association, La Vista, Neb. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**10/21-22/14** – EPA Lean Summit, Washington, D.C. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

**10/30/14** – COOP Exercise, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

**11/12/14** – Native American Heritage Event Discussion on “Climate Change and Adaptation in Indian Country, Regional Office. Contact: Alex Owutaka, 7584

**11/18/14** – Region 7 Small Business Environmental Assistance Providers, Regional Office. Contact: Gary Bertram, 7533

#### **DRA:**

**10/7/14** - Employee Appreciation Event, Regional Office contact: Monica Espinosa, 7541

**10/30/14** – COOP Exercise, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

**11/12/14** – Native American Heritage Event Discussion on “Climate Change and Adaptation in Indian Country, Regional Office. Contact: Alex Owutaka, 7584

#### **RA/Immediate Office**

None

#### **Other Events**

#### **AWMD**

None

#### **CNSL**

None

## **ECO/EJ**

**10/5-8/14** – Superfund 101 Training, Chicago, Illinois. Contact: A. Moses, 7649

**10/19-22/14** – Senior Enforcement Managers Meeting, Washington, D.C., Contact: D. Singletary, x7373

## **ENSV**

None

## **PLMG**

None

## **RA/OPA**

**10/14/14** – Attend West Lake Landfill CAG meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

## **SUPR**

**10/7/14** – Greater St. Louis Sub-Area Committee, Industry Day Workshop for spill response strategies on the lower Missouri River, St. Charles, Mo. – Contact: Jeff Weatherford 636-326-4720

**10/22/14** – Public Availability Session to discuss remedial action and the Five Year Review for the Parkview Well Site, Grand Island, Neb. Contact: Brad Vann, 7611

## **WWPD**

**10/8-9/14** – 2014 National CAFO Roundtable, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

**10/15-16/14** – Big River Task Force Meeting with Other State and Federal Agencies, Farmington, Mo. Contact: Jeannette Schafer, 7297

**10/20-21/14** – Hypoxia Task Force Meeting, Alton, Ill. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

**11/3-6/14** – EPA Tribal 106 Coordinators Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: Heather Duncan, 7640

## **Letter: Governor has ignored voices of Iowans**

10/2/14

They ought to quit shouting and start listening to the people who will be most affected." That was Gov. Branstad's retort [Sept. 30] to some pesky protesters who were out in force at an industry-sponsored meeting Monday in Des Moines. The governor and his big-money friends were complaining about a clean-water rule being proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Funny thing is, the "people most affected" by Iowa's clean water crisis are the very people Branstad has deliberately ignored, and not listened to. for years. Hundreds of thousands of Iowans have had to put up with Branstad's legacy:

- 748 manure spills since 1996.
- 630 polluted waterways as of 2012.
- Toxic algae blooms and high nitrates in our lakes and rivers.
- 20 million corporate hogs producing the waste equivalent of 45 million people.

Iowans want a clean-water governor, not one who consistently carries [dirty] water for the corporate ag industry.

— Hugh Espey, executive director, Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement Action Fund, Des Moines

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### **Des Moines Register**

#### **Branstad asks Obama to boost renewable fuel mandate**

By Christopher Doering,  
3:37 p.m. CDT October 2, 2014

Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad is urging the White House to reverse a proposal that would reduce the amount of renewable fuels required to be blended into the country's motorfuel supply.

In a letter to Shaun Donovan, director of the Office of Management and Budget, Branstad and Gov. Pat Quinn, D-Ill., said the proposed reduction to the renewable fuel standard would be especially damaging to biodiesel and cellulosic ethanol, the fledgling industry where the fuel is made from crop residue, grasses and wood chips and other plant materials. The OMB is in charge of vetting proposed regulations.

Last November, the Environmental Protection Agency, which oversees the RFS, proposed sharply cutting ethanol made from corn and cellulosic materials in 2014, while leaving the biodiesel level at the same amount as the prior year. The EPA has not issued the final blending requirements for 2014, but an announcement is expected this fall.

"The adoption of EPA's proposed 2014 RFS volume requirements threatens to have a negative economic impact on the rural economy and on the biofuels industry, specifically on biodiesel and cellulosic ethanol," Branstad and Quinn, both members of the Governors' Biofuels Coalition, said in the Wednesday letter.

The governors said the proposed cuts already have curtailed investments in biodiesel and cellulosic, which has hurt rural economies that depend on renewable fuels.

Iowa is the nation's leader in renewable fuels production. It has 42 ethanol refineries capable of producing more than 3.8 billion gallons annually and 12 biodiesel facilities with the capacity to produce almost 315 million gallons annually.

Last month, Branstad, an ardent biofuels supporter, charged EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy with being misleading in her support for renewable fuels.